



The Toni Times

From the Desk of Councilmember Toni Atkins



January 2006

Dear Neighbor:

I hope your holiday season was an enjoyable one, and that 2006 turns out to be a rewarding and productive season for you, your family and friends, and San Diego.

While there are many challenges that still face our city, I enter the new year with a renewed sense of optimism and hope that we will be able to work together to address many of these concerns. The transition to a strong mayor/strong council form of governance affords us the opportunity to reinvent the way the city operates on a day-to-day basis, and to plan for its long-range needs.

I pledge to work closely with Mayor Sanders, Council President Peters, the City Attorney and my fellow councilmembers to ensure that the city continues on the right path to economic recovery. I am especially eager to begin work as chair of the newly created Budget and Finance Committee. I hope that you'll get a chance to follow the progress of this committee and offer your insights, ask questions, and help suggest solutions. This will truly be a team effort between the elected officials and the public.

As we enter the new year, I want to take this opportunity to inform you of some staff changes that have taken place in the Third Council District Office.

April Chesebro, who came on board temporarily to help with community representation and constituent work while some of the District Three staff moved up to the Mayor's office

during my tenure as Deputy Mayor, has been added to the staff full time. A recent graduate of UCLA with a degree in political science and Afro-American studies, April did an outstanding job in the communities she was assigned and is a strong addition to our staff.

I'm also pleased to welcome Daisy Gordon Crompton as my Budget and Finance Committee consultant. Daisy did an amazing job as part of my temporary staff in the Mayor's Office as my Deputy Press Secretary. She has done economic analysis for the State Department and HUD in Washington, D.C., holds a bachelor of arts degree from UC Berkeley, an MBA from Stanford with a certificate in public management, and she was the launch and implementation manager for 211, San Diego County's new information phone line. These combine to make her an excellent selection as committee consultant.

On a sad note, my former chief of staff and policy director, Jeff Gattas, has accepted a position with Mayor Sanders as his council liaison. This is a great opportunity for Jeff, and a position for which he is well suited. I want to thank Jeff for his five years of devoted service to both me and the residents of Council District Three. He will be deeply missed.

Over the next few weeks I'll be working with my staff on some new assignments of duties. Once these become final, I'll pass them along to you.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2006!

The Environmental Services Department will once again oversee a Christmas Tree Recycling Program through January 23, 2006. This highly popular city program is now in its 32nd year and has been selected by the Solid Waste Association of North America and the National Christmas Tree Association as one of the best Christmas tree recycling programs in the nation.

This program supplements the Curbside Greenery Collection Program by providing a Christmas tree recycling option for residents not serviced by the curbside program. Through this program, residents can recycle Christmas trees by dropping them off at any one of 17 collection sites throughout the city. The drop off location in Council District Three is at the Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive. There are

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM INFORMATION

also drop off locations nearby but outside the district in the Target parking lot in Mission Valley Mall and at SDSU in

Parking Lot D off Alvarado Road.

Last year, approximately 140,000 trees were recycled into mulch at the Miramar Greenery. Mulch is a useful landscaping product commonly used for erosion control, water conservation, dust control and weed abatement. Best of all, mulch and compost are available free to San Diego residents at the Miramar Landfill Greenery if self-loaded. For more information on this service, call (858) 573-1410.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Specialist coordinating the program is John Theroux, who can be reached at (858) 573-1284 if you have any questions about the program.

CHILDREN'S ARTWORK SHINES DURING RAY AT NIGHT

LARGE MURALS OFFICIALLY UNVEILED AT NORTH PARK COMMUNITY MONTHLY ARTS AND CULTURE EVENT

On December 10th, two large murals painted by local area youths were officially unveiled along the corner of 31st Street and University Avenue prior to the start of the monthly "Ray at Night" arts celebration in North Park. The murals are designed to help beautify the area and signify the continued progress in the revitalization of this historic community.



Patrick Edwards and Jeannie Tidy presented paint brush plaques to the Children's Museum, Aja, Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins' office, and developer Dan Liewer of KDL Properties for implementing the mural on the corner of 31st and University Avenue. The Drowsy Maggie's site has been vacant for many years and is now the proposed site for the new Third District Flagship Library.

It's wonderful that the North Park community is encouraging children to take an active role in beautifying and revitalizing neighborhoods. Instilling community pride at a young age can only improve our neighborhoods in the future and invite people to come to North Park, enjoy Ray at Night the second Saturday of each month, and witness firsthand how this area is quickly becoming a thriving arts community.

The murals are a result of the hard work, creativity, and collaborative effort between the San Diego Children's Museum and the Aja Project, an organization that empowers refugee and underprivileged children through educational programs. The artists, aged between 10 and 15, are also students from El Cajon Valley Middle School and come from a number of countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Mexico. The project took about two months to complete and the panels depict life in North Park. The children took photographs of North Park and later scaled the images onto the layout for the mural.

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM CELEBRATES ROSA PARKS DAY



Local elected officials and representatives from MTS and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company joined together to unveil a new Rosa Parks informational card to be displayed in all MTS buses, along with a Rosa Parks DVD that will be offered in all libraries throughout the county.

On December 1st, I had the opportunity to honor Rosa Parks and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. Her actions 50 years ago led to her being known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights" movement in this country.



Councilmember Atkins stands below one of the new Rosa Parks informational cards now featured in all MTS buses.

This day was celebrated around the nation as part of the American Public Transportation Association's National Transit Tribute to Rosa Parks Day. As part of the tribute, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) hosted a customer appreciation event at the Euclid trolley station, and unveiled an informational bus card that is now available on all MTS buses to honor the civil rights leader. Additionally, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of San Diego and MTS jointly donated 70 copies of the DVD "Rosa Parks, a Modern Day Heroine" to all libraries in San Diego County.



Councilmember Atkins addresses the press and public as part of MTS' Rosa Parks Day celebration.

SPRECKELS ORGAN PAVILION ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADED

Recently, the City of San Diego completed a complex electrical systems upgrade to the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Improvements to the 90-year-old electrical system included the repair of the decorative exterior lighting, fabrication and replacement of 1,640 rosettes at light locations, upgrade of the control system to make the lighting fully functional, replacement of all electrical panels and cables inside the building, and the installation of a new switchgear in the basement storage area. The scope of work included the update of the plans and specifications to current electrical codes, and implementation of the plans and specifications. Since the Spreckels Organ Pavilion is in a National Historic Landmark Zone, the project adhered to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Profiles.



The world famous Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

Completed in 1915, the structure of the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, as well as the ornamentation, was constructed of cast concrete. The exterior lighting design incorporated metal conduit and porcelain sockets which were cast directly into the concrete ornamentation. For this project, the antiquated cloth-covered wiring was replaced with new code compliant lighting and an upgrade of the electrical system. Of the original 1,640 rosettes, 1,606 new ornamental glass fiber reinforced concrete rosettes with cast-in-sockets were fabricated and installed to replicate the 1915 appearance. Torch top finials, ceiling globes in the colonnades and other exterior light fixtures were restored. Crack repair, ornamentation patching, roofing, waterproofing, and repainting were completed in the restoration project.

THIRD DISTRICT UNDERGROUNDING UPDATE

A variety of utility undergrounding projects continue throughout the Third Council District. I'll be updating you periodically on their progress. Projects currently underway in the district are:

30th/Fern Distribution

Trenching is complete. SDG&E is still installing the mainline underground cable, which should be completed in late January. Once the underground line is energized, above-ground electrical service can be converted to underground service, which should be completed in early May. When all electrical service is converted to the underground line, removal of overhead lines can begin.

Meade Avenue - New Jersey Street to 44th Street

The big news on Meade Avenue is that trenching is completed on the east end (I-805 to 44th) and the contractors are on the cleanup phase of that portion of the project through January. Trenching on the west end of the project (I-805 to New Jersey) should be finished by early February.

All the customer connections are completed on both jobs. New street trees and street lights will be installed on both the Fern/30th project and Meade Avenue project, and will begin when the above-ground power lines are at least de-energized, if not removed. Full street repairs will also follow.

Block 3FF Project - Talmadge

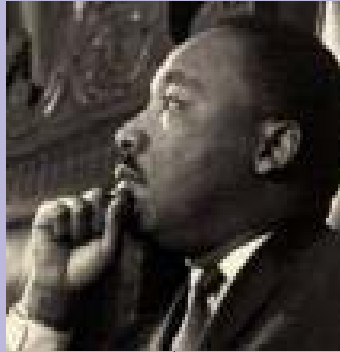
In late October 2005, I reported that construction began in the Talmadge area bounded by Madison Avenue, 51st Street, Montezuma Avenue, Collwood Boulevard and El Cajon Boulevard. This project, the first of the Third Council District's Residential Undergrounding Program will include the conversion of approximately 731 customers and 11,588 feet of overhead utilities at an estimated cost of approximately \$10 million. Work is proceeding on the first of four quadrants in the project area, and work for the entire block is expected to go through 2006.

Three major utility undergrounding projects are currently underway in the Third Council District.



ACLU PRESIDENT TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ALL PEOPLE'S BREAKFAST

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) President Nadine Strossen will deliver the keynote address at this year's All People's Breakfast at the San Diego Convention Center on Monday, January 16, 2006, at 7:30am. The breakfast, held annually to commemorate the life and legacy of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., carries the theme "In the Face of the Storm."



ACLU, the first woman to head the nation's largest and oldest civil liberties organization. The event is open to the general public, but tickets should be purchased in advance as the event will generally sell out prior to the day of the event. Tickets to the breakfast are \$15 per person, and may be purchased by completing the registration form found at www.AllPeoplesBreakfast.org, and then

Ms. Strossen was twice named one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" by the *National Law Journal*. She has written, lectured and practiced extensively in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties and international human rights. Since 1991, she has served as president of the

mailing a check made out to "MLK Breakfast" to: MLK All People's Breakfast, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 916, San Diego, CA 92101. For more information, call the 2006 All People's Breakfast Host Committee at 619/236-6420.

There are some new faces in leadership positions at Balboa Park cultural institutions.

NEW LEADERS NAMED FOR BALBOA PARK INSTITUTIONS

Rob Sidner has been named director of the Mingei International Museum. He replaces James Goodwin, who resigned for personal reasons shortly after being named to replace the Museum's founder, Martha Longenecker. Sidner had been the assistant director of the Mingei since 1996.

Rick Hernandez has taken over the leadership of the Centro Cultural de la Raza from Nancy Rodriguez, who will stay on the Centro's board of directors. Mr. Hernandez will manage the Centro's staff and contractors and is responsible for the organization's operating budget. Prior to the Centro, Hernandez was executive director of the La Jolla Stage Company for nearly four years. In addition, he served fellowship assignments in the City of San Diego Municipal Government Fellowship Program; was an arts management

assistant with the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture; and was a performer, teacher and administrator with

the Western Stage Theater Company in Salinas.

Entrepreneur William Lennartz brings his background in business to the helm of the San Diego Aerospace Museum. Lennartz has founded or led several companies that later merged with larger technology corporations. In 1984, he served on the Los Angeles Olympic Committee's licensing and merchandising commission. Most recently, he was the co-founder and chief executive of California Linear Devices, a worldwide manufacturer of linear motors. Lennartz replaces Ken Curtis, who ran the Aerospace Museum since 2003.

Please join me in welcoming them and wishing them all the best in their new positions!

University Heights, under the leadership of community organizer Nan McGraw, is forming its own Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and is including members from surrounding communities. Nan is trained as a CERT member and has organized a group where other CERT-certified community members can congregate to ensure community safety in the event of an emergency.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS FORMING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents

can overwhelm conventional emergency services. This valuable course is designed to help you protect yourself, your

family, your neighbors, and your neighborhood in an emergency situation. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be on their own and their actions can make a difference.

For more information on the University Heights program, contact Nan at (619) 260-0668.

DISTRICT THREE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)

Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Darlene Davies, chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

City Heights Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue

Meets the first Monday of the Month, 6:30pm

Contact: Jim Varnadore, Chair, 619/280-3910.

Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Patricia Shields, Chair, (619) 295-1374.

Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way

Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: John McGaughy, Chair, 619/574-1135, or jstewartstudios@aol.com

Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.

Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

Contact: Judy Elliot, Chair, 619/563-5473.

Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm

Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.

How To Contact Us

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Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov

MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am

Contact: 619/282-7329

City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8am at the Metro Career Center Community Room, 3910 University Avenue.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5588, San Diego, CA 92165

Phone: 619/516-2282

El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard

Meets the second Thursday of the month, 11:30am

Contact: 619/283-3608

Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm

Contact: 619/299-3330.

North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue

Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00am

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Rick Castro (City Heights East) -- 619/515-2733

Rick Edgil (Hillcrest, North Park, University Heights) -- 619/291-1729

Richard Fox (Normal Heights, Kensington/Talmadge) -- 619/531-2815

Gary Gonzales (Golden Hill, South Park) -- 619/744-9500

Pat Norris (Fairmount Park) -- 619/531-1515

Jim Tulumello (City Heights West) -- 619/516-3009

MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave.

Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm

Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor

Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm

Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977,

or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

District Three Staff

Denise Price, Chief of Staff.

George Biagi, Director of Communications; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues; Community Development Block Grants; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; newsletter; webpage.

April Chesebro, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge, South Park, Golden Hill and University Heights; African-American community liaison; homeless issues.

Daisy Gordon Crompton, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance; housing issues.

Stephen Hill, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Balboa Park; environment, libraries, arts and culture, land use citywide; MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, military/veterans issues.

Pam Ison, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community; City Heights redevelopment; school liaison and education issues; women's, youth, and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues.

Cheli Mohamed, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

Monica Pelaez, Council Representative to North Park; liaison to the Latino community; Council docket coordinator; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison; senior issues.

Jeffery Tom, Council Representative to Uptown, Hillcrest and Normal Heights; infrastructure, citywide business issues, energy, telecommunications, Metropolitan Transit System, SANDAG transportation, BID Council.

District Three Community/Neighborhood Meetings

City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm. Contact: info@azaleapark.org

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: 619/285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. 619/584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com.

San Diego Model School Development Agency: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00am at the Metro Career Center, 3910 University Avenue. For more information call Robin Allen at 619/578-7537, or check out www.sdmodelschool.net.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact becky@rebecca@bairfinancial.com.

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse. Contact: 619/696-9992

Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: Meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: dbyrne4bna@cox.net.

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6pm at North Park Christian Fellowship Church, 2901 North Park Way.

South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held bi-weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. and last one hour. For information, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at samkeen@cox.net or Connie McDonough at conniemcdonough@cox.net.

Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm

How To Contact Us

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